REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected independent claims 1, 12 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102. Furthermore, the Examiner has rejected dependent claims 2 through 11 and 13 through 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103. In view of the above claim amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the pending rejections.

In addition, the above amendments to the drawings and the specification were voluntarily made to correct certain informalities. None of these amendments introduces new matter since the amendments have been supported by the original disclosures of the current application.

The Section 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected independent claims 1, 12 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the Ouchi reference. Independent claims 1, 12 and 21 have been amended to clarify the patentable feature of the current invention. Newly amended independent claims 1, 12 and 21 now each explicitly recites "returning the newly generated address definition...." This is to reference "generating a new address definition" in a clear manner in the corresponding independent claim.

The Examiner has alleged that the Ouchi reference anticipates every subject matter limitation of independent claims 1, 12 and 21. For the patentable feature of "generating a new address definition," the Examiner has pointed out the disclosures of the Ouchi reference at line 62, column 18 through line 9, column 19. The above alleged anticipation appears to be inappropriate for the following reasons.

The Ouchi reference generally discloses a message-based workflow systems and methods for computer networks. By use of the e-mail based system, the Ouchi reference

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1, 3B, 4A and 4B. These sheets, which includes Figs. 1, 3B, 4A and 4B, replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1, 3B, 4A and 4B.

In Fig. 1, elements 23 and 43, please change "MAINTENANCE" to --STORAGE--.

In Fig. 3b, steps S16 and S17, please change the arrow pointing from B to S17 to point from B to S16.

In Fig. 4A, please delete the arrow between steps S23 and S24.

In Fig. 4B, please delete the arrow between steps S34 and S36. Also in Fig. 4, on the right side of step S39, please change "YES" to read --NO-- and on the right side of the arrow between steps S39 and S40, please change "NO" to read --YES--.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

exemplifies a workflow of submitting, approving and reimbursing business expenses for predetermined projects. For each project, a predetermined set of e-mail addresses is assigned to perform the above exemplary tasks. For example, the approval task is performed by a predetermined singular manager or one of pre-assigned managers depending upon the employee who submits the request. In any case, the e-mail addresses are stored in advance for various employees, tasks and projects, and the predetermined rules or conditions simply determine to retrieve one of the previously stored e-mail addresses. In other words, the retrieved address is not generated, but simply retrieved.

In sharp contrast to the Ouchi reference, independent claims 1, 12 and 21 each explicitly recite "generating a new address definition ...." In other words, "a new address definition" is "genrat[ed]" in the current invention rather than retrieving an existing pre-stored address as the Ouchi reference discloses. For the above reason alone, independent claims 1, 12 and 21 are not anticipated by the Ouchi reference.

In addition, the above distinction is further supported by the claim differentiation of independent claim 1 and 21 based upon the subject matter limitations in claim 10. Dependent claim 10 explicitly recites "said generating the new address definition is performed prior to said requesting the address definition."

Based upon the above reasons, the Applicant believes that the alleged anticipation is improper. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits to the Examiner that the rejection of independent claims 1, 12 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

The Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ouchi reference in view of Taylor et al. reference. Similarly, the

Examiner has rejected claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ouchi reference in view of the Krishnaswamy et al. reference. Lastly, the Examiner has rejected claims 5 through 9, 16 through 19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ouchi reference in view of the Krishnaswamy et al.

Dependent claims 2 through 11 and 13 through 20 ultimately depend from either of independent claims 1 and 12 and incorporate the patentable feature of the independent claims. As described above with respect to the section 102 rejections, independent claims 1 and 12 each explicitly recite "generating a new address definition ...." In other words, "a new address definition" is "genrat[ed]" in the current invention rather than retrieving an existing pre-stored address.

As clearly distinguished with respect to the 102 rejections, the Ouchi reference fails to teach or disclose the above patentable features of the current invention as explicitly recited in independent claims 1 and 12. Similarly, the Ouchi reference also fails to suggest the above patentable features since no new address definition is implied or suggested in its disclosure. By the same token, the Taylor et al. reference and the Krishnaswamy et al. reference also fail to teach, disclose or suggest the same patentable features of the current invention as explicitly recited in independent claims 1 and 12.

The Taylor et al. reference discloses an integrated system for electronic mail, facsimile transmission, terminal emulation and file synchronization among distributed computers. An electronic address book allows information to be efficiently sent to users of both electronic mail and facsimile transmission. To optimize the communication, five types of address cards are implemented to include a person card, a group card, a computer card, a calling card and a service card. For example, the person type address cards hold personal and destination information about a specific person or entity. Similarly, the group type address cards hold group/personal and destination information

about a specific person or group. The personal/group and destination information further include a list of "electronic mail addresses" as well as phone and fax numbers. The only existing mail addresses are stored, and no new mail addresses are generated.

The Krishnaswamy et al. reference generally discloses systems and methods of routing and managing telephone calls, data and other multimedia information including audio and video through a switched network such as a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) which includes transfer of information across the Internet. In managing the above system, a user profile information is stored, and the user information includes name, address, fax number, IP address and e-mail address as disclosed in column 27.

Furthermore, the Krishnaswamy et al. reference discloses "X. INTERNET TELEPHONY AND RELATED SERVICES" in columns 74 through 113. The communication in the Internet telephony includes connections between 1) PC to PC, 2) PC to PSTN, 3) PSTN to PC and 4) PSTN to PSTN. To manage these communication transactions, the user profile method is created based upon the information that is gathered from individual users as disclosed in column 108. The information includes name, address, e-mail address and IP addresses that have been already generated before and stored elsewhere. No new address definition is generated.

In relation to billing of these communication as disclosed in "XXI, BILLING" in columns 267 through 282, the Krishnaswamy et al. reference discloses "Network Call Identifiers" (NCID) for identifying each of the communication transactions. As illustrated in the flow charts in FIGURES 92, 93 and 94A, a NCID is generated. As described with respect to FIGURE 94A in column 279, the step 3114 of FIGURE 92 generates a NCID to reference a particular call. Each NCID includes a sequence number and a time value for an associated port. Thus, the NCIDs will be used to reference a particular call for the purpose of billing. Although the NCID is generated on the fly, the NCID is not associated to "the address definition" Again, no new address definition is

generated, and no suggestion is provided for the new address definition in the Krishnaswamy et al. reference.

For the above reasons, dependent claims 2 through 11 and 13 through 20 are not being obvious over the cited references under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The combined disclosures of the cited references fail to teach, disclose or suggest the patentable feature of the current invention. Thus, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to invent the patentable features of generating a new address definition based upon the cited references alone or in combination. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits to the Examiner that the rejection of dependent claims 2 through 11 and 13 through 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and attachments, the Applicants respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a favorable Office Action so indicating.

Respectfully submitted,

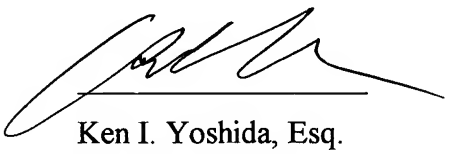

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FIG.1

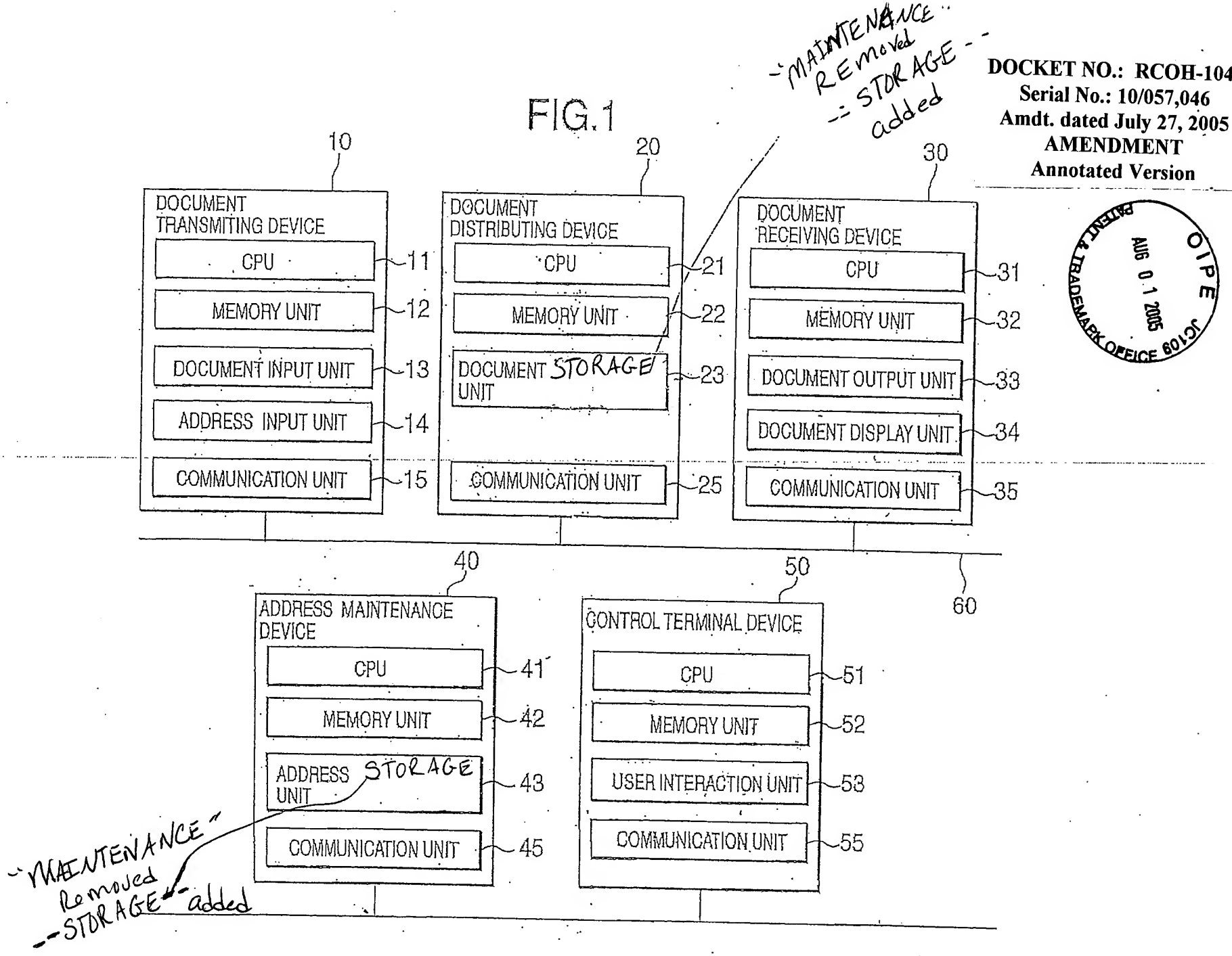
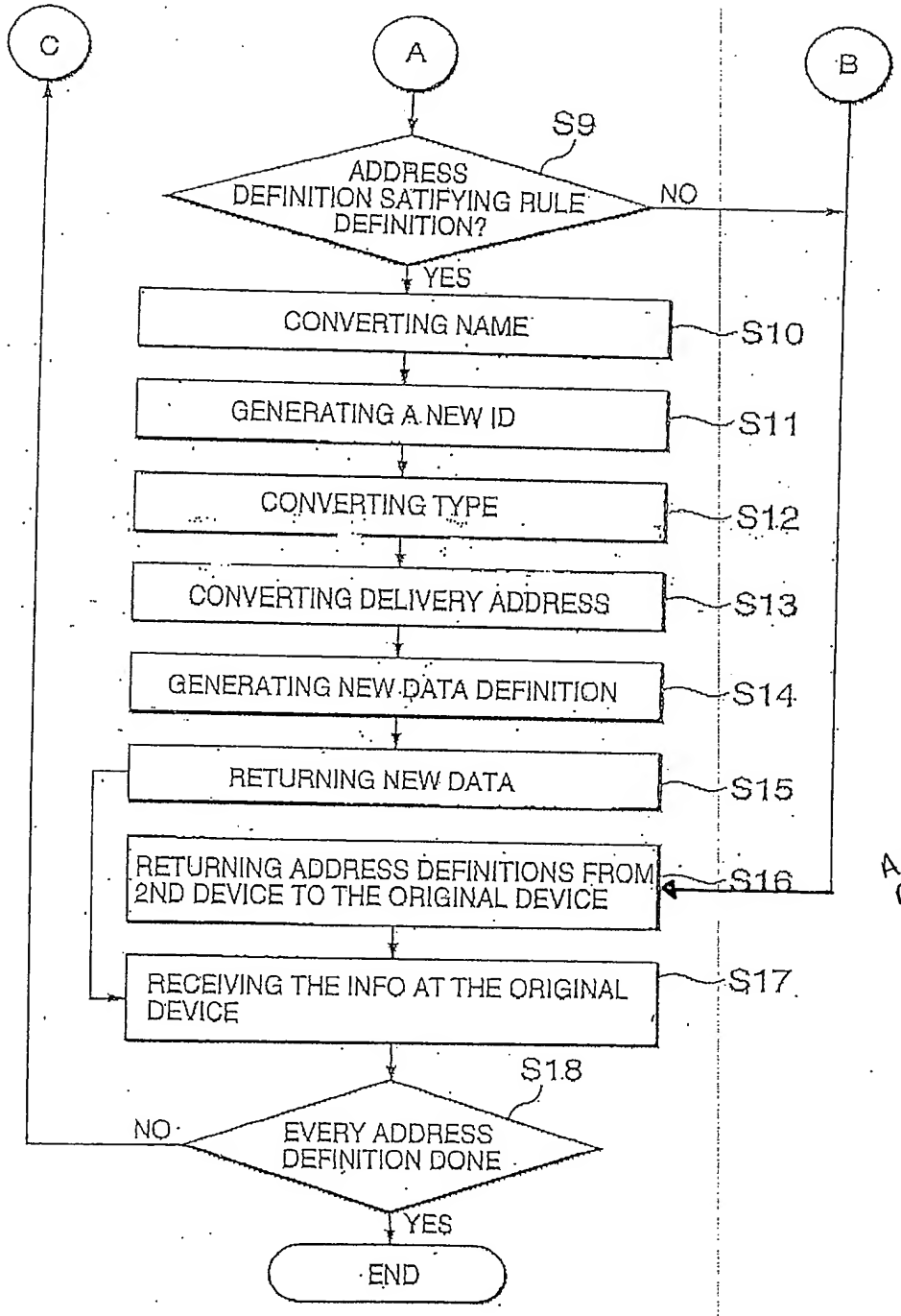


FIG.3B



ARROW moved to Step S16

FIG.4A

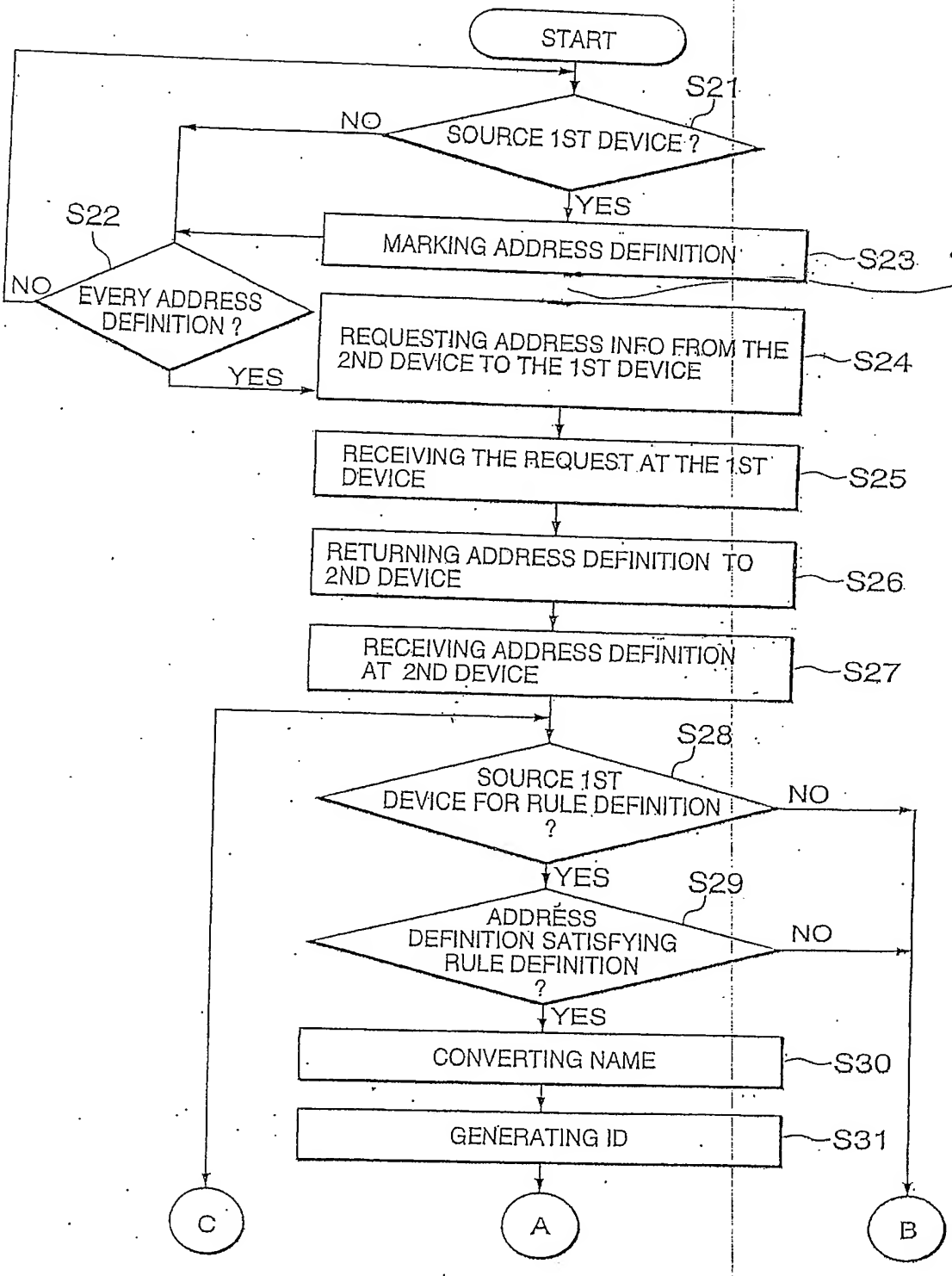


FIG.4B